

Women of Kimbaseke, Educate women to educate others

Their powerful story: From 40 peer educators to 22,000 health-educated citizens

Education is key to liberation. Educating a nation's female population is essential to its economic growth. This is what we are doing for women in Kimbaseke, started with only 40. After completing a literacy and numeracy program, a door of endless possibilities was opened for them. We train them as peer educators who teach their communities about relevant issues which they identify themselves. They began Human Development clubs where they come together and strengthen their entrepreneurship skills to lead successful businesses and train others.

With incomprehensible resolve, 40 women ranging in age from 16 to 56 years old and from grandmothers to teen mothers, determined to educate the entire population of one of the poorest and most populated neighborhoods in the capital, Kinshasa. They reached every household, teaching about prevention of HIV and malaria, early detection of breast cancer, and protection from domestic violence. teen mothers (who live in one of the poorest neighborhoods in Kinshasa, DRC capital, it is one of the forgotten neighborhoods) The women reached the entire population of Kimbaseke, and educated every household about prevention of HIV and malaria, early detection of breast cancer, and protection from domestic violence. After graduating from a literacy program provided by HEAR Congo's partner, Alfacongo, these 40 women were trained to be peer educators and community leaders who, within two months and with the assistance of a host of experts from the UN, World Vision and The Red Cross, brought their knowledge to 3932 households, four schools and four churches. Another 40 peer educators, drawn from Human Development Clubs (which have 10 members in each group), began a Women's Entrepreneurship Network. Another group of 40 trained 120 more women, bringing the total number of peer educators and community leaders working in the Kimbaseke neighborhood in Kinshasa to 160 and Human Development Clubs to sixteen.

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